

V. REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Yanagimachi et al. (Japan 10-011799); claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Yanagimachi et al. (Japan 10-011799) and claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Usami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,122) in view of Yanagimachi. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended claims 1, 5 and 6 include the feature that the optical recording medium has a groove pitch of not less than 0.6 μm and less than 1.0 μm (specification, page 8, line 8).

The present invention is directed to DVD or other recording medium having higher recording density. Therefore, the optical recording medium of the present invention needs to meet the groove pitch of not less than 0.6 μm and less than 1.0 μm (specification, page 8, lines 3 to 10). Further, the optical medium having a silver reflecting layer, especially in such a medium with enhanced recording density, is liable to increase in errors (specification, last paragraph of page 2). Therefore, the silver reflecting layer of the present optical recording medium needs to meet the specific range of the relative intensity ratio 1(200)/1(111) recited in claim 1.

On the other hand, the cited references are directed to a CD which is lower in recording density with wider groove pitch or, alternatively are never disclosed and taught the particular range of the groove pitch as claimed in the present invention.

For reference, Uchlyama (US 5,329,351 which is cited in the first Office Action in the present application) directed to a CD describes the groove preferably has a width of 0.3 to 1.3 μm and a land pitch of 1.0 to 2.3 μm (column 3, line 68 to column 4, line 5).

As described above, the cited references fail to teach or suggest the particular range of the groove pitch as claimed in the present invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims, as amended, are patentable over the references.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe

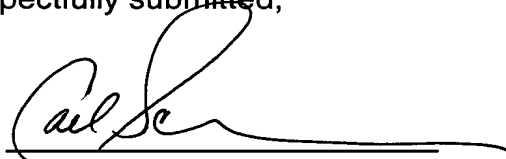
anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Petition for Extension of Time (three months)

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